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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia, []	REPORT	[]	25X1
SUBJECT	New Source of Iron Ore for the Vitkovice Iron Works	DATE DISTR.	4 March 1955	
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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The Vitkovice Klement Gottwald Iron Works in Vitkovice was built to use [] phosphoric iron ore. In previous years the Czechs have imported as many as 3,000,000 tons [] per annum for use by this plant. However, for 1955 they have indicated in trade negotiations that they have no requirements for [] ore for Vitkovice.

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Comment: If the Czechs intend to maintain production at Vitkovice, this means that they must have acquired another source of iron ore similar to that formerly obtained [] or else they have completely rebuilt the furnaces. But if the furnaces at Vitkovice were to be rebuilt to handle another quality of ore, it would be such a large undertaking that it would be impossible to keep it out of trade circles for a long period of time. For this reason, it is considered most likely that the Czechs have a new source of ore of a quality and chemical composition similar to that previously obtained []

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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